

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD

Telephone :
Bideford 2486.

Public Health Department,
Cooper Street,
Bideford.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF BIDEFORD

FOR THE YEAR

1966

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.,

Report of Medical Officer of Health

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Bideford.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year 1966.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1967.

Health Committee

YEAR 1966/67

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Mrs. E. M. V. Patt

Chairman Alderman A. E. Fulford

Aldermen W. H. Copp

C. Cann, J.P.

Councillors R. D. D. Birdwood, M.C., D.L., J.P.

E. C. Hart

Mrs. E. J. Brown

P. J. V. Fulford

T. Pennington

F. M. Finn

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Appointed 1st April, 1966

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

Inspector of Meats and Foods

Housing Officer

Petroleum Officer

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

G. H. WHEELER, Cert. R.S.H.

AUTHORISED MEAT INSPECTOR

T. AKEROYD, M.A.M.I., A.R.S.H., M.inst. M.

ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in Acres	4,068
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	10,830
Rateable Value (as at 1-4-1966)	£331,397
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1966/67)	£1,285
General Rate in the £ for Year 1966/67	11-5d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1-4-66)	3,425
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31-12-66)	695
Density of Persons per House	3.16

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Births : Area Comparability Factor	1.13
Deaths : Area Comparability Factor	0.70

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Number	169
Rate per 1,000 population	15.6
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	17.63
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	2.9

Stillbirths

Number	3
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	17.44

Total Live and Still Births	172
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Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	7
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Infant Mortality Rates

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	41.42
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births	30.48
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	400

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	35.5
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Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	35.5
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Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	52.32
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	157
Death Rate per 1,000 population	14.49
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	10.14

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1950

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i> (Regist. Gen. Estimate)	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1950	10,270	149	152
1951	10,200	167	187
1952	10,170	152	143
1953	10,210	146	152
1954	10,300	159	148
1955	10,220	136	140
1956	10,200	141	168
1957	10,210	174	139
1958	10,340	146	138
1959	10,460	156	157
1960	10,510	174	156
1961	10,600	146	168
1962	10,820	161	138
1963	10,820	176	163
1964	10,820	161	168
1965	10,830	163	169
1966	10,830	169	157

BIRTHS

During the year there were 169 live births, which was 6 more than occurred during 1965.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births						
Legitimate	....	....		85	79	164
Illegitimate	....	....		1	4	5
				86	83	169
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population				....	....	.... 15.6
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp.						
Factor	....	....	....	....	....	.... 17.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales				....	....	.... 17.7

Still Births						
				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....		2	1	3
Illegitimate	....	....		—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births						 17.44

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 157, as compared with 169 in 1965.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
				81	76	157
Death Rate per 1,000 population				....	....	.... 14.49
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp.						
Factor	....	....	....	....	....	.... 10.14
Death Rate for England and Wales....				....	....	.... 11.7

The following table shows the Causes of Death :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	2	—	2
Tuberculosis—Other	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm —Stomach	4	—	4
„ „ Lung, Bronchus	3	—	3
„ „ Breast	—	2	2
„ „ Uterus....	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	6	14
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	15	24
Coronary Disease, Angina	20	14	34
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1	3
Other Heart Disease	9	15	24
Other Circulatory Disease	7	6	13
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	5	4	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System....	2	2	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	2	2
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases....	4	3	7
All other Accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	1	1	2
	81	76	157

DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE FOLLOWING AGE-GROUPS

Under 1 year 7	35–44 years	4
1– 4 years –	45–54 years	9
5–14 years –	55–64 years	21
15–24 years –	65–74 years	37
25–34 years 1	Over 75 years	78

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	2	2
Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 Total live Births			35.5

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

During the year, seven infants died under the age of one year.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	4	1	5
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	2	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births						41.42

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred of women in childbirth.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 24 deaths from Cancer during the year, twelve less than in 1965.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Stomach	....	....	....	4	—	4
Lungs and Bronchus	....	....	....	3	—	3
Breast	....	....	....	—	2	2
Uterus	....	....	....	—	1	1
Other	....	....	....	8	6	14
				—	—	—
				15	9	24
				—	—	—

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

<i>Year</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1950	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
1951	....	....	....	....	2	—	2
1952	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
1953	....	....	....	....	2	—	2
1954	....	....	....	....	3	2	5
1955	....	....	....	....	2	—	2
1956	....	....	....	....	3	—	3
1957	....	....	....	....	1	—	1
1958	....	....	....	....	2	—	2
1959	....	....	....	....	4	—	4
1960	....	....	....	....	3	1	4
1961	....	....	....	....	5	—	5
1962	....	....	....	....	5	—	5
1963	....	....	....	....	6	—	6
1964	....	....	....	....	7	—	7
1965	....	....	....	....	5	1	6
1966	....	....	....	....	3	—	3

Cancer of the lung in males decreased from 5 in 1965 to 3 in 1966.

The total number of Cancer deaths, and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths since 1950 are shown in the following table :—

Year	Total No. of Deaths	Cancer Deaths			Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths
		M.	F.	Total	
1950	152	7	21	28	18.4%
1951	187	12	11	23	12.3%
1952	143	15	14	29	20.3%
1953	152	14	10	24	15.8%
1954	148	11	19	30	20.3%
1955	140	9	9	18	12.8%
1956	168	15	13	28	16.7%
1957	139	8	11	19	13.7%
1958	138	15	11	26	18.8%
1959	157	12	10	22	14.0%
1960	156	12	15	27	17.3%
1961	168	15	10	25	14.9%
1962	138	18	11	29	21.0%
1963	163	11	15	26	15.9%
1964	168	21	13	34	20.2%
1965	169	18	18	36	21.3%
1966	157	15	9	24	15.3%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1966, arranged in age groups :—

AGE GROUPS	Measles	Whooping Cough	Tuberculosis	
			Pulmonary	Non-Pulm.
Under 1 year	8	—	—	—
1+	24	1	—	—
2+	33	—	—	—
3+	34	—	—	—
4+	34	1	—	—
5—9	102	1	—	—
10—14	4	—	—	—
15—19	1	—	—	—
20—34	—	—	1	—
35—44	—	—	—	1
45—64	—	—	1	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	240	3	2	1

FOOD POISONING

No cases of Food Poisoning were reported.

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1950

Year	No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.	Case Rate per 1,000 Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1950	7	0.68	6	0.58
1951	12	1.17	2	0.20
1952	9	0.88	0	Nil
1953	10	0.98	3	0.29
1954	8	0.78	0	Nil
1955	5	0.49	1	0.10
1956	5	0.49	1	0.10
1957	1	0.10	0	Nil
1958	6	0.58	1	0.10
1959	5	0.48	1	0.10
1960	7	0.67	1	0.10
1961	4	0.38	0	Nil
1962	3	0.28	0	Nil
1963	1	0.09	0	Nil
1964	1	0.09	1	0.09
1965	2	0.18	0	Nil
1966	2	0.18	2	0.18

The following table shows the number of cases on the Borough Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December :

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			TOTAL
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1966 1st January	28	22	50	3	5	8	58
31st December	29	24	53	4	5	9	62

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit now visits the Borough every fortnight on alternate Thursdays between the hours of 1.30 and 3 p.m. It is situated at the Council's Car Park, Kingsley Road, and its services are available to the general public (except children under 15 years of age and expectant mothers), and is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes, who are aged and infirm and living in insanitary conditions and who are unable to care for themselves and are not receiving proper care and attention from others. Such persons are removed to a County Welfare Home. They can be admitted voluntarily if they so desire.

No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox, and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners, and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are two Infant Welfare Clinics, one at Coronation Road (Thursday afternoons) and the other at the Church Institute (Tuesday afternoons).

' MEALS ON WHEELS '

This service is run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Services. The meals are prepared at the Rugby Club Kitchen and approximately sixty meals a week are delivered to the elderly.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an Infectious Disease unit at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford, which serves the Borough as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX

During the year, the Hospital previously available for the reception of any Smallpox cases in the area, viz. the Upton Pyne Hospital, near Exeter, was closed.

The present arrangements are that LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital will be the "first line" reception hospital for any Smallpox cases in Devon and Cornwall, with LEE MILL Hospital as "second line" hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance now provides transport for Smallpox cases in Devon or Cornwall. The telephone number is Plymouth (OPL.2)64101.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Venereal Disease Clinic : This is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, Glossop Annexe :—

Sessions

<i>Males</i>	<i>Mondays</i>	<i>5.15 p.m.</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Mondays</i>	<i>4.00 p.m.</i>
	<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>5.45 p.m.</i>		<i>Thursdays</i>	<i>4.30 p.m.</i>

Infant Welfare Clinics

There are two Infant Welfare Clinics at Bideford. They are held on the following days :—

Coronation Road Clinic

Every Thursday afternoon 2-4 p.m.

Church Institute

Every Tuesday afternoon 2-4 p.m.

Coronation Road Clinic

Dental Clinics :	every Tuesday morning.
Eye Clinic :	every Wednesday.
Family Planning Clinic :	every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening.
Hearing Clinic :	on the 1st Tuesday morning each month.
Speech Therapy Clinic :	held alternate Fridays.
Chiropody Clinic :	1st Monday in the month all day 2nd Thursday in the month all day 3rd Tuesday in the month all day every Friday.

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

To the Worshipful the Mayor and Members of the Bideford Borough Council

Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors

I have much pleasure in submitting my sixteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary administration of the area.

The work of the department proceeded in a manner similar to that reported in previous years. Early in the year the establishment was reduced by one public health inspector and a minor transfer of duties was put into effect, but, there was much that still required doing. Although a great deal has been undertaken during the year I can report only slow progress in some fields of operation. As an instance of this if reference be made to the section of this report dealing with Offices, Shops and Railway Premises administration it will be seen that few general inspections were carried out. It had been expected that most, if not all, premises coming within the scope of this legislation would have received a visit but it was not found possible. Such work as was carried out was aimed at securing compliance with the requirements of the Act as inspection proceeded and it is a matter of opinion whether or not this procedure is to be preferred over that of inspecting a larger number of premises collecting detail to be pursued at a later date.

Meat inspection has always been a feature of a year's activities and this year was no exception. In spite of difficult conditions at the abattoir, throughput continued to increase and only by the continued employment of veterinary practitioners on a larger scale was it possible to give coverage in this work. Firm plans for the removal of this business to a new slaughterhouse in an adjoining area were prepared and the transference was expected to take place early in 1967.

Further legislation came into operation at the latter end of the period under review in the form of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966. Markets, stalls and delivery vehicles which were not previously covered came under hygiene requirements similar to those provided in the Food Hygiene Regulations 1963.

HOUSING

Satisfactory progress was made in the provision of housing accommodation and in dealing with obsolescent properties. Proposals to develop land East-the-Water forged ahead and the building of new Council houses commenced in March. A large contractor of national repute was engaged to build the houses using a system of industrialised building and by the ninth of November fifty-one houses and five bungalows were completed and occupied. Proposals were under consideration for the

building of a further fifty on an adjoining site but the seemingly insurmountable difficulty of finding suitable land on the level and within easy reach of the town centre for the provision of accommodation for the elderly continued to give cause for concern, especially since many of the houses falling due for treatment under Part III Housing Act 1957 are occupied by this class of person.

Rehousing from the Honestone Street Clearance Area continued and a further area of some twenty-five houses was inspected. Before the end of the year it was recommended that the Bridge Street, Allhalland Street and Union Street area be declared a Clearance Area and that negotiations be commenced for the purchase of properties in the area.

Action was taken in respect of three individual unfit houses resulting in Closing Orders being made in respect of two ; action in respect of the third house was still proceeding.

An appeal to County Court against a Closing Order made towards the end of 1965 was withdrawn and the Order thus came into effect.

Seven houses were demolished privately and twelve houses, previously dealt with under Part III of the Housing Act 1957, were demolished by the Council.

Improvement Grants

Work under this heading is summarized as follows :—

Discretionary Grants

Number of applications received	....	5
Number of applications approved	....	5
Estimated value of work approved	....	£2,914 8s. 0d.

Standard Grants

Number of applications received	....	13
Number of applications approved	....	8
Number of applications not proceeded with	....	5
Estimated maximum value of work approved	....	£2,445

In such an important exercise which is aimed at improving and saving living accommodation and, in some instances, increasing the numbers of units of living accommodation it is pleasing to report an increase in activity, however small. By comparison with the previous year, this year's figures show a big percentage increase. In actual numbers the figures are lamentably small and show a continuing lack of interest which is greatly to be regretted.

RENT ACT 1957

It will be remembered that this Act permits in certain circumstances an increase in rent, subject to the tenant's right to object by the service on the landlord of a notice listing defects of repair which he considers

should be remedied. If the repairs are not carried out or an undertaking to carry them out has not been given, the tenant may apply to the local authority for a certificate of disrepair.

No application was received during the year.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

No action was taken under this heading during the year.

HOUSES COMPLETED AND OCCUPIED DURING THE YEAR WERE :

(a) By the Borough Council	....	....	....	....	56
(b) By private enterprise	....	....	....	....	18
				Total	74
Applicants on housing list at end of 1965	....	....			59
Applicants added to list during 1966	....	....	....		144
				Total	203
Applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies				122	
Applicants removed from the list having obtained private accommodation or left the district	....			28	
					150
Number of applicants on list at end of year	....				53

Continuing the Council's policy for making available housing accommodation to help newly established industries in the town, seventeen key workers were housed, this number being included in the above number of applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	246
Revisits made under Public Health Acts	312
Miscellaneous under Public Health Acts	60
Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	66
Revisits made under Housing Acts	25
Miscellaneous under Housing Acts	10
Overcrowding	4
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)	15
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)—Revisits	11
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)	55
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)—Revisits	58
Council Houses (including investigation of Council House applications)	297
Milk and Dairies Act	6
Meat Inspections	170
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	82
Inspection of Food and Food Premises—Revisits	23
Inspection of Ice Cream Premises	18
Inspection of Butchers Shops	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	15
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Revisits	38
Factories Act	2
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order 1957	4
Pet Animals Act	5
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	2
Petroleum	23
Petroleum—Revisits	7
Insect Pests	5
Insect Pests—Revisits	2
Drainage	59
Drainage—Revisits	41
Rodent Control	16
Rodent Control—Revisits	7
Mortuary	3
Dustbins	1
Infectious Diseases	1
Number of Preliminary Notices served	77
Number of Preliminary Notices completed	74
Number of Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations	4
Number of Notices completed under Food Hygiene Regulations	5
Number of Notices served under Milk and Dairies Regulations	1
Number of Notices completed under Milk and Dairies Regulations	—
Number of Notices served under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	1
Number of Notices completed under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	8
Number of Statutory Notices served	25
Number of Statutory Notices completed	21

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	2	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	—	—	—
Total	98	2	1	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	1	Nil	1	Nil

Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel— Making, Etc.	62	—	—	—	—	—

RAINFALL

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall recorded at King George V Field and those for Jennetts and Gammaton Reservoirs were provided by the Engineer to the North Devon Water Board.

			<i>King George V Field</i>	<i>Jennetts</i>	<i>Gammaton</i>
January ....	....	....	2.74	3.51	2.67
February....	....	....	3.96	4.90	3.92
March ....	....	....	1.25	1.41	1.79
April ....	....	....	5.01	5.86	5.69
May ....	....	....	2.71	3.03	2.96
June ....	....	....	3.31	3.77	3.16
July ....	....	....	1.54	1.55	1.43
August ....	....	....	3.42	3.37	3.40
September	....	....	1.42	1.72	1.63
October ....	....	....	5.11	5.27	4.01
November	....	....	2.36	2.79	2.61
December	....	....	3.92	3.58	4.42
			36.75	40.76	37.69
			Inches	Inches	Inches

WATER SUPPLY

The North Devon Water Board continued to provide the district with a supply of drinking water which was satisfactory in quality and quantity and not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

Samples of raw water taken on three occasions from Gammaton source were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results indicated probable numbers per 100ml. of Coliform Bacilli/Bact. Coli (Type 1) as 130-130 ; 1600-1600 ; and 600-600. Forty-four samples of treated water from the same source were submitted for bacteriological examination and all but one of these were Class I. A repetitive sample from the same location indicated a Class I result.

Bacteriological examination of samples of raw water taken on four occasions from Jennetts source indicated probable numbers per 100 ml. of Coliform Bacilli/Bact. Coli (Type 1) as 1600-1600 ; 350-350 ; 1800+-1800+ ; and 1800+-1800+. Forty-eight samples of treated water from this source were submitted for bacteriological examination and all but four of these were Class 1. Immediate repetitive samples were taken from the same location and the results came back satisfactory.

Samples of both raw and treated water from Jennetts source were submitted for chemical analysis. In the case of the raw water the results indicated suitability for treatment for public supply purposes and in the case of the treated water the results showed effective filtration treatment and indicated, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

No chemical analysis was made of Gammaton source during the period.

There has been no specific indication of the presence of natural fluorides in either waters.

Action against contamination as indicated by the bacteriological analysis of the raw water is taken by effective treatment at both the Gammaton and Jennetts waterworks.

I am indebted to the Chief Engineer of the Board for the foregoing information.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal

The Council's Consulting Engineers have had surveys made of the site for a submarine pipeline for an outfall. The possibility of a combined outfall is being explored to take the drainage from both Bideford and Northam.

Sewerage

Contracts have been completed for the first two phases of the sewerage scheme for East-the-Water. Schemes for the third phase at East-the-Water and the Chanters Lane area are in preparation.

Flood Relief Scheme

The Council's Consultants are in touch with the Devon River Authority concerning the effect of the Flood Basin Scheme on the storm water sewerage of the area.

INSECT PESTS

Very little trouble was experienced from infestations during the year. Help and advice was given to occupiers of three premises.

RODENT CONTROL

All complaints of infestation by rats and mice have continued to be investigated with the help of members of the Borough Surveyor's outdoor staff who have received training in this work. It has not been found possible however to undertake any systematic routine visits but where premises were visited for other purposes details of any infestation found were noted and necessary action taken.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was one.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered under the above-mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The functions of the Devon County Council with regard to licensing of waste food boiling plants for animal feeding have been delegated to this Council.

The importance of adequate boiling of the food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised as it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest.

There is one licensed plant in this area.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act requires establishments used for boarding cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

One such establishment was licensed by the Council.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

No additions were made to the register of Scrap Metal Dealers during the year but, following alterations and deletions, the number remaining in the register was eight.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Premises	Registra- tions during 1966	Total No. of Registered Premises	No. of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	58	—
Retail Shops	3	127	4
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses....	—	9	—
Catering Establishments and Canteens	1	11	—
Fuel Storage Depots....	—	3	—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 53.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Premises	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	384
Retail Shops	530
Wholesale departments, warehouses	90
Catering Establishments	97
Canteens	—
Fuel storage depots	23
Total	1124
Males	511
Females	613

Exemptions

No applications for exemption regarding space, temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

Accidents

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

- (a) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises or
- (b) disables any such person for more than three days.

During 1966, two accidents were notified. One gave rise to an amputation of the top of the third finger on the left hand following the jamming of a bacon slicing machine. The other resulted in a cracked ankle bone.

Both accidents were investigated : in the former case no action was necessary : in the latter steps were taken to bring about minor structural alteration which, it was envisaged, would prevent further accidents of a similar nature.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As already mentioned in this report the throughput of animals slaughtered at the abattoir of the North Devon Meat Limited showed a further marked increase in numbers reaching a total of 97,320 animals and of these 49 Bullocks, 20 Calves, 271 Sheep and 67 Pigs were sent to the abattoir for emergency slaughter.

In a previous report I included a brief review of the growth in this district of the industry of slaughtering animals for human food. Between the years 1927, when records were first reported, and 1940 figures of animals slaughtered in the town varied between 3,500 and 5,000 annually. From 1940 until 1954, during the wartime period of control these figures rose and varied from 10,000 to 20,600 per year. Subsequently, the North Devon Meat Limited, as the company is now known, purchased the abattoir and adjoining cattle market and carried out extensions to the slaughterhouse. During 1961 the throughput figures rose to 31,245 animals. Each year since then I have reported a continued increase in throughput and this year's figure of 97,320 shows how greatly the industry has grown and indicates the extent to which the premises, extended in 1961, have now become inadequate.

It is with regret that I must report, as shown in Table A, that due to staffing difficulties a quantity of meat left the slaughterhouse uninspected early in the year. The figures given above will I hope convey some idea of the problem the department has faced in carrying out this onerous task.

The incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* (the embryo form of tapeworm infesting man) was found to be 0.1% of all cattle inspected.

The following table shows the incidence of infestation detected in animals slaughtered in this area since 1952.

Year	Throughput of Cattle	Carcases affected with C. Bovis	% of throughput inspected affected with C. Bovis
1952	1655	81 (part year)	4.89
1953	1886	96	5.09
1954	2270	89	3.90
1955	2677	66 (+ 1 Generalised)	2.47
1956	3118	94 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.01
1957	3466	117 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.37
1958	3201	105 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.28
1959	3219	110	3.42
1960	3970	180	4.53
1961	4835	151	3.12
1962	4781	123 (+ 1 Generalised)	2.59
1963	4896	72	1.47
1964	5525	47	0.85
1965	7813	33	0.42
1966	11208	11	0.10

STUNNING. In compliance with statutory requirements, all animals that are killed in the slaughterhouse are rendered insensible to pain by means of a mechanically operated instrument, and 17 licences to slaughter animals other than horses were issued to slaughtermen.

The following Tables give a summary of the work carried out :—

Table A. Gives details of the animals killed and inspected and details of condemnations showing percentages of the carcasses affected, differentiating between

- 1—All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.
- 2—Tuberculosis only.
- 3—Cysticercosis.

Table B. Shows the amount of “ Other Foodstuffs ” condemned and reasons for condemnation.

TABLE A

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	10941	267	149	69020	16943	—
Dressed Carcasses....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	10928	267	149	68970	16883	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses con- demned....	13	41	18	338	57	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6120	141	4	8891	1662	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysti- cerci	56.12	68.16	14.77	13.38	10.18	—
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses con- demned....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	275	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.63	—
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was con- demned	11	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration	11	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of num- bers inspected affected with Cystic-Bovis	0.10	—				

TABLE B

Foodstuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
70 Tins of Meat	Tins blown or damaged	—	2	3	5	8
3 Tins of Meat	Decomposition	—	—	—	26	8
1 Tin of Meat	Contaminated due to defective lacquering	—	—	—	6	0
2 Tins of Meat	Rusted internally	—	—	—	—	14
1 Piece of Meat	Fluke and cirrhosis	—	—	—	14	0
1 Piece of Meat	Abscessed	—	—	2	23	0
40 Pieces of Meat	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	5	2	8	11
282 Packets of Meat	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	1	0	7	13½
13 Tins of Fish	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	1	11	6½
6 Boxes of Fish	Decomposition	—	1	0	5	0
579 Packets of Fish	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	2	2	18	2½
90 Tins of Fruit	Tins blown or damaged	—	5	2	27	5
31 Packets of Fruit	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	—	18	6
1 Tin of Fruit Juice	Tin damaged	—	—	—	—	14
25 Cartons of Fruit Juice	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	—	9	6
27 Tins of Vegetables	Tins damaged	—	—	—	16	14½
342 Packets of Vegetables	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	1	1	11	10
10 Packets of Cheese	Damaged	—	—	—	2	7½
20 Packets of Cheeseburgers	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	—	5	0
2 Tins of Soup	Damaged	—	—	—	1	2
25 Tins of Milk or Milk Puddings	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	1	12	8
96 Packets of Milk or Milk Puddings	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	—	17	5½
116 Packets of Pastry or Cakes	Failure of refrigeration plant	—	—	1	21	14½
1 Tin of Jam	Damaged	—	—	—	—	15
TOTAL		1	3	0	20	11½

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is :—

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Cafes and Restaurants including Fish Saloons and Fish and Chip Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Grocers and Provision Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	55
Market	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

(b) 10 Premises are registered for the manufacture or storage of preserved foods ;

53 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, one being a wholesale store supplying other retailers.

In addition there is one registered manufacturer of ice cream using the cold mix method of manufacture.

(c) Condemned food is disposed of as follows :—

(i) tinned foods and small quantities of provisions are taken by the Council's cleansing department and buried at the bottom of the refuse tip ;

(ii) condemned meat from butchers shops is taken to the slaughterhouse where it is collected together with condemnations from the Slaughterhouse by a firm who has given an undertaking to the Council that the material taken will be reduced to fats or converted to fertilizers.

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations

21 visits of inspection were made to food premises, van and stalls. Improvements were secured where necessary.

(e) Samples

Samples of ice cream were taken during the year and sent for bacteriological examination with the following results :—(see table overleaf)

Samples

Producer	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
A	1	—	—	—	1
B	1	—	—	—	1
C	1	—	—	—	1
D	1	—	—	—	1
E	1	—	—	—	1
F	1	—	—	—	1
G	—	1	—	—	1

In the one case where the sample fell in Grade II conditions of handling were investigated.

MILK SUPPLY

Fifteen purveyors of milk are registered as distributors, one of these being a large concern which is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority as a pasteurising establishment. This establishment, in addition to selling by retail, supplies by wholesale all but two of the remaining distributors.

There are four premises registered as a dairy.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

Two new licences were issued during the year covering 530 gallons of petrol and 500 gallons of petroleum mixture bringing the total of licences in force under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928 to forty. Total quantities stored were 65,505 gallons of petroleum spirit and 2,165 gallons 6 pints of petroleum mixtures.

The amount of fees paid to the Council in respect of the above licences was £33 17s. 6d.

I would like to welcome Dr. Williams who joined us during the year, and I look forward to many years of happy association with him.

In concluding I wish to thank all members and officials of the Corporation and the staff in my office for their help and consideration.

I am,

Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. T. NETTING.

